Department: Modern and Classical Languages

Course No: 262W

Credits: 3

Title: From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to

Contact: Roger Travis

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

WQ: Writing

Catalog Copy: FREN 262W. From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature Either semester. Three credits. Recommended preparation: FREN 164 or 175 or three years of high school French or consent of instructor. Study of poetry, theater and prose fiction that marks the evolution from the psychology of the romantic hero and heroine to Existentialist philosophy and the New Novel, and contemporary fiction and poetry.

Course Information: A. Description. The course covers French Literature from the Revolution of 1789 to the second half of the 20th century. Its main objective is to acquaint students with the new trends of modern art and culture, while especially focusing on the interaction between various artistic forms. B. Course requirements: Weekly short writing assignments about the most important texts of the period; two essays, one midterm and one final examination; one long term-paper; one oral presentation. In general, students are expected not only to understand the major ideas developed through these texts, but to also respond to them critically and Comparatively. C. Major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered.

Introduction au XIX siècle -les moments historiques

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: The course requires of students to become familiar with the traditional poetics of the literary texts under study, which involves familiarity with a broad spectrum ranging from simile and metaphor to alliteration and narrative technique. In addition, students are asked to familiarize themselves with the rhetoric of a text: how the author uses language, but also how characters themselves within the text use language for different ends. Beyond emotional engagement with a literary text, students are taught how a literary text is constructed and how it functions. The objective is to develop their critical faculty
and give them the rhetorical tools to do this. Further, in class discussions and in written assignments, students are respectively encouraged and required to articulate what they have learned in thought out and substantiated responses. Lastly, since the texts under study cover several centuries, students become familiar with a broad range of stylistic and cultural contexts.

**CA1 Criteria:** The wide range of texts studied and discussed are essential for an understanding of the cultural as well as literary background of the French exception. This course continues the systematic exploration of various literary genres while opening new vistas on other medias like opera and journalism. It focuses on the connection between arts (e.g. Impressionnisme or Cubisme), psychology and performance.

**W Criteria:** This course is based on the close study of various literary genres and forms, which naturally promotes the ability to reuse these processes in the students own writing samples; the course requires a considerable amount of written work from the students, each essay being first presented in draft form, then corrected and resubmitted for approval.